

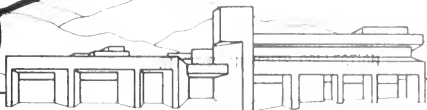
# **Montana Newsletter**

***Montana State Library***

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## News



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VOLUME 19, NO. 12

NOVEMBER 1991

## Budget Cuts Dictate Fewer Newsletters

The 8-percent general fund cut requested by the governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning will affect the frequency of State Library publications.

The January and March issues of the *Montana State Library News* will not be produced. However, the *Montana State Library News Update* is unaffected. An *Update* will be mailed out in early December, in February 1992, and every other month thereafter.

The State Library's personnel and travel budget is also being trimmed, as is the per-capita and per-square-mile state aid for public libraries approved during this past legislative session.

## Commission Adopts New Mission Statement

Members of the State Library Commission adopted the following mission statement during their retreat October 5 & 6 in Helena:

"Libraries are the foundation for an educated and informed citizenry. The Montana State Library Commission, through its authority, is dedicated to promoting information gathering and sharing for all people."

## Children's Book Week



### 1992 LaserCat Applications Available Starting Nov. 15

Libraries may request 1992 LSCA-funded LaserCat grant applications from the State Library beginning November 15. Address your request to: LaserCat Applications, Library Development Program, Montana

The Commission also agreed on two goals: 1) Every citizen in the state of Montana be informed about the services available in and from the Montana State Library and in and from the local libraries in Montana, and, 2) To use the federation structure study to examine the overall question of statewide libraries.

The Commission's next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the State Library conference room, 1515 E. 6th Ave., Helena.

## Bookmarks Sent Out

Special Children's Book Week bookmarks featuring ballots for Montana's new Treasure State Award (K-3) and the regional Young Reader's Choice Award (grades 4-8 and 9-12) were mailed to public libraries on November 4. Children's Book Week was November 11-17.

State Library, 1515 E. 6th Ave., Helena, 59620. Deadline for applying is 5 p.m., February 7, 1992.

Libraries must apply in writing for a LaserCat grant application form and must have on file at the State Library an approved (by both the local governing body and the State Library) collection management policy. The latter is in accordance with an approved State Library Commission policy which applies to all LSCA grants.

Each library with a collection management policy at the State Library for review as of November 1, 1991, will know the policy's status by November 15. Policies can be submitted after this date in order to request a LaserCat grant application, and the staff will make every effort to review those policies in a timely fashion. Libraries should keep in mind, however, the application deadline of February 7, 1992, for LaserCat grants.

## LBPH Patron Data Emerge From Computer

Several active patrons of the State Library's Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped are older than 100. This piece of information and others are now readily available to LBPH staff thanks to a new interface program developed by Jim Senkler, computer programmer for the State Library.

The new program allows LBPH staff to extract and manipulate patron and book data from the LBPH database.

It was no surprise that Westerns

are the most popular subject area among LBPH's approximately 2,300 patrons, said Sandra Jarvie, LBPH director. What was particularly interesting, however, was the age breakdown that emerged, she noted.

The majority of LBPH patrons between age 0 and 59 are male, Jarvie said, while those age 60 to 100+ are predominantly female. At the 90-100+ age range, 147 patrons are female, and only 33 are male.

Jarvie said LBPH staff can search for specific book characters and find titles that include them, if they are mentioned in the annotation.

## Upcoming Conferences

**APPM and Archival Cataloging: a Workshop in the Practical Application of Archives, Personal Papers and Manuscripts**, 2nd Edition, December 5 & 6, Austin, TX, 512-471-8806.

**"Literacy, Library and Family,"** Congress for Librarians, February 17, 1992, St. John's University, Jamaica, NY, 718-990-6200.

**"Reach Your Leadership Potential Now!"** Library and Information Leadership Institute 1992, February 20 & 21, 1992, Austin, TX, 512-471-8806.

**Fourth Annual Distance Learning Conference**, March 15-17, 1992, Billings, 444-1625.

## 1992 Summer Reading Program

The 1992 Summer Reading Program can be as successful as this past summer's SRP with your input. The following themes were suggested on the evaluation forms included with the 1991 Summer Reading Program Librarians' Manual. Please check your choice and mail the clipping ASAP to: Cathy Siegner, Montana State Library, 1515 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT, 59620.

Thanks!

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinosaurs            | <input type="checkbox"/> Flights of Fancy              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbows & Lollipops | <input type="checkbox"/> Olympics--Tortoise & the Hare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecology/Outdoors     | <input type="checkbox"/> Dragons                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Time Machine/Future  | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Around the World!        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Explore Like Lewis & | (geography/travel)                                     |
| Clark! Read!                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ninja Turtles                 |

## On the Library Shelf

The following library-related titles are available from Information Resources at the State Library:

*Managerial Accounting for Libraries and Other Not-For-Profit Organizations* (025.1 Smith);

*Citizen Rights and Access to Electronic Information* (021 Citizen);

*Reference Institute II video and book* (020.7155 Montana Video);

*Alternative Sources of Revenue in Academic Libraries* (025.11 Lynch);

*Collection Development in the Small Library* (025.2 Cassell).

Also, a new *Museum Resources Bibliography* is available upon request from Information Resources. Call 1-800-338-5087 or 444-3004 for information. It includes titles on preparing exhibits, caring for antiques, museum security and other related issues.

Titles may be interlibrary loaned for approximately four weeks and renewed if there is no waiting list by calling Dixie Carlson at 444-3016.

## Continuing Education Grants Available

The MLA's Continuing Education Committee has \$1,200 available for innovative projects and individual continuing education.

Individual grants will be awarded for no more than \$500 or actual transportation and lodging costs.

Grants are based on financial need, and the emphasis is on continuing education; grants are not for tuition

costs in attaining a degree or recertifying an existing degree.

First priority is on projects to benefit MLA as a whole (e.g., the applicant would present a program based on what has been learned at the next annual conference).

For applications and/or information, contact Judy Meadows, State Law Library, 215 N. Sanders, Helena, 59620, 444-3660, fax 444-3603.

## Children's Book Reviews

The key after each review gives the grade level for which the book would be appropriate, the reviewer's assessment of the book's quality (Q) and popularity (P) level (with Q4 and P4 being the highest possible rating), the publisher's information, publication date, number of pages, price and ISBN number.

**My Grandmother's Journey**, by John Cech and Sharon McGinley-Nally (reviewed by Charlotte Henson, librarian, Lincoln and Hawthorne Schools, Helena).

Based on true events in the life of a Russian woman born in 1907, this story follows grandma from the Russian Civil War to the famines of Stalin's time to her eventual trip to Ellis Island after WWII.

Though basically a picture book, *My Grandmother's Journey* provides an opportunity to discuss many of the major conflicts of Europe in this century and the personal difficulties of the people who survived them. Touchingly included also are the little acts of kindness that people are capable of even in the worst of times.

The illustrations are very, very colorful and detailed to enhance the simple text. This book would go nicely with such books as *Molly's Pilgrim* for third graders studying immigration.

(Grades 1-5; Q4/P3; Bradbury Press; 1991; \$14.95; ISBN 0-02-718135-9.)

**How We Learned the Earth is Round**, by Patricia Lauber, illustrated by Megan Lloyd (reviewed by Charlotte Henson).

This is another Patricia Lauber classic: simple, spare (32 pages), factual, with good illustrations (few photographs this time). This book tells of the geographical ideas of the Greeks and the 15th century

Spanish explorers. The illustrations present child-sized experiments.

Perfectly timed for the Columbus anniversary, this book might be used as a whole language tie-in with science for 2nd to 4th graders. I am only sorry Lauber left out Galileo.

(Grades 2-4; Q4/P3; Thomas Y. Crowell; 1990; 32 pp.; \$12.89; ISBN 0-690-04862-9.)

**A Tribe for Lexi**, by C.S. Adler (reviewed by Cynthia Rooley, director, Liberty County Library, Chester).

Lexi has always been an outsider, traveling with her parents to construction sites in underdeveloped and often dangerous countries. When her only friend, the black houseboy, is killed in South Africa, Lexi is sent to a boarding school in the United States and, finally, to her aunt and uncle's farm in upstate New York.

There, Lexi discovers two other misfits—Trueblood, the scarred Indian storyteller, and her cousin Jeb, who dreams of running away and joining the mysterious Indians of Trueblood's stories. Lexi joins him on an adventure fraught with mishaps and danger. Both children and Trueblood learn to accept their strengths and uniqueness while forming a "tribe" all their own.

This story deals at the junior-high level with the complicated issues of rejection, self-image and acceptance. Some issues such as the mother's self-containment or Trueblood's deceit are presented without bias or criticism, but the strength of the book is in Lexi finding the acceptance to be different.

(Grades 5-8; Q3/P4; Macmillan; 1991; 158 pp.; \$12.95; ISBN 0-02-700361-2.)

**I, Columbus: My Journal**, edited by Peter and Connie Roop, illustrated by Peter E. Hanson (reviewed by Cynthia Rooley).

A fun book that provokes discussion and raises more questions than it answers. Peter and Connie Roop have taken passages from Christopher Columbus' log and edited them for easy reading by the elementary student. There are plenty of pictures and short entries to hold the interest of the young student but enough of the adventures, conflicts and fears to interest the upper-elementary reader.

A pervading atmosphere of wonder and uncertainty throughout the book makes the reader want to question what happened to the *Pinta*. Did they find gold? What about the cannibals on the islands? Definitely recommended for all elementary collections and public libraries.

(Grades 3-6; Q4/P4; Walker and Co.; 1990; 57 pp.; \$13.95; ISBN 0-8027-6977-2.)

**The Leaves in October**, by Karen Ackerman (reviewed by Dianna Babcock, librarian, Winnett School).

Livvy, her brother, and father live in a shelter for the homeless. After a while, Livvy no longer believes her father's promise that they will have a real home by the time the leaves turn red and gold.

Her joy turns to despair when her father finally finds a job but cannot take the children with him. A lovely foster home cannot change Livvy's determination to make it on her own with her brother.

After reading a letter from the mother who abandoned them, Livvy begins to understand adult problems and gives the money she's earned to her father, who then buys an old camper and takes the children with him to the new job.

I recommend this book for every library. It covers contemporary problems in a way that promotes real understanding and empathy.

(Grades 3-6; Q4/P3; Macmillan; 1991; 117 pp.; \$12.95.)

(continued from page 3)

**Predators**, by Anita Baskin-Salzburg and Allen Salzburg (reviewed by Dianna Babcock).

Predators have some amazing abilities. Sharks can smell food two miles away, and some animals can locate their prey by detecting the electrical field of its nervous system. Interesting facts such as these, along with a basic foundation about the predator/prey chain and lots of color photographs and charts, make this book a winner.

The language level is slightly above what the format suggests. There is a pro-predator bias, but it is limited to the last few pages. Unfortunately, the authors chose to write, "Some people still believe predators are evil," instead of something more neutral like, "Some people believe that predators need to be controlled."

(Grades 3-5; Q4/P3; Franklin Watts; 1991; 63 pp.; \$11.90.)

**Maxi, the Hero**, by Debra and Sal Barracca, pictures by Mark Buehner (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt, director, Information Resources, Montana State Library).

Maxi was introduced to us in *The Adventures of Taxi Dog* by the same authors. Maxi rides around New York City in the taxi driven by his partner Jim.

In this new adventure, Maxi becomes a hero when he speeds off in hot pursuit of a purse snatcher, but that is just one of many wonderful adventures.

The pictures make the books especially wonderful. The beautiful paintings bring New York City to life through Maxi's eyes. Readers will love the text, and the paintings are sheer delight.

(PS-3; Q4/P4; Dial Books for Young Readers; 1991; 30 pp.; \$12.95; ISBN 0-8037-0940.)

**The Boonsville Bombers**, by Alison Cragin Herzog, illustrated by Dan Andreasen (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt).

Emma Lee Benson wants to play baseball—on her older brother's baseball team. She wants to be a Boonsville Bomber.

Her plan to achieve her goal seems to be working really well—step one went off without any problems. Her brother's best friend Joe seems to be a major hurdle to get over or around. Owen Zabriskie, major league player for the Pioneers, and Emma's Aunt Esther play important roles in helping Emma reach her goal.

(Grades 2-7; Q4/P4; Viking; 1991; 91 pp.; \$11.95; ISBN 0-670-83595-1.)

**This New Land**, by G. Clifton Wisler (reviewed by Barbara Benish, librarian, Montana City Schools).

The author has devoted much time to researching the story of the *Mayflower* and its passengers. Told in the first person by 12-year-old Richard Woodley, the story has an immediacy not present in most material on this subject available to children.

This story is packed with detail about the religious and occupational backgrounds of the passengers, the tremendous difficulty in traveling and the true hardships the group suffered when arriving in this very raw, untamed land.

The ending sections on the peaceful relationships that existed between Native Americans and the settlers were especially well done. This was a time when there was enough land for such coexistence.

Students not in tune with historical fiction probably wouldn't read this, but it has such rich detail that those who did would find themselves enriched by the experience. This book would be ideal for oral reading—either wholly or in part—to social studies classes studying the colonization of America.

(Grades 5-7; Q3/P2; Walker & Co.; 1987; 124 pp.; \$13.95; ISBN 0-8027-6727-3.)

**Hibernation**, by John Stidworthy (reviewed by Joyce G. Johnson, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

This book is part of a series called *Animal Behavior*. The contents are nicely organized with each section summarized in bold print. It is liberally sprinkled with excellent color photographs and easily interpreted charts and graphs.

The subject of hibernation is completely covered: why animals hibernate, how they prepare to hibernate and the biology of hibernation. Color photos, drawings, a glossary and an index are included.

(Grades 5-8; Q4/P3; Gloucester Press; 1991; 32 pp.; \$11.90.)

**Miniature Horses**, by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent (reviewed by Judy Stephenson, librarian, Judith Gap Schools).

Tiny horses only 34 inches tall are bound to appeal to imaginations both young and old. This book talks about the creation of the miniature breed and how it differs from the Shetland. Miniatures are, according to this work, just like other horses except for size. They come in a wide variety of colors, but their natures seem to be unfailingly gentle.

A section of this little book is dedicated to showing miniature horses. Categories and requirements are explained in detail.

According to Patent, miniature horses make excellent pets, thanks to their size and gentleness. Breeding stock are expensive, but the geldings make wonderful, easily managed pets.

Those too young to read will be fascinated by the photos of tiny horses no taller than themselves.

(Grades K-4; Q3/P3; Cobblestone Books/Dutton; 48 pp.; \$14.95.)

## Press Roundup

The **Butte-Silver Bow Public Library** has moved into its new headquarters, thanks to assistance from a volunteer "book brigade."

Cataloging all of the **North Valley Library's** books onto a computer system is being done in Stevensville.

A recycling drive October 19 helped out the **Joliet Community Library**, which reportedly received a 15.7% cut in its operating funds from Carbon County.

The **Lewistown City Library** received a nearly \$21,000 grant to set up the first and only literacy program in central Montana.

Four-digit numbers in lieu of names are being assigned to protect the privacy of patrons of the **Prairie County Library** in Terry.

The annual Friends of the Library book sale last month netted the **Havre-Hill County Library** nearly \$700.

The **Boulder Public Library** board has awarded a \$133,811 construction bid for a new library.

The "Buy-a-Book" campaign sponsored by the Friends of the **Lewis & Clark Library** raised \$4,614 for new books at the Helena library.

June Phillips, director of the **Livingston-Park County Library**, participated in a book selection panel discussion on October 29.

A special "Night of One Hundred Dinners" on November 9 benefited the **Bozeman Public Library's** endowment fund.

A list of books challenged in Montana appeared in the **Miles City Star** prior to Banned Books Week, September 28-October 5.

Displays of banned and/or challenged books were featured during Banned Books Week at the **Dawson County High School Library** and the **Dawson Community College Library** in Glendive.

The old oak doors gracing the **Dillon City Library** have been restored by master woodworker John Kjelland of Missoula.

More than 900 patrons attended an open house September 30 unveiling the new computer system at the **Flathead County Library** in Kalispell.

Woody Owl visited children during a story hour September 27 at the **John Gregory Library** in Whitehall.

A special Christmas card celebrating reading will raise money for **Lewis & Clark Library's** book budget.

Public library services are available at **Melstone School** as of October 1 because of a Library Literacy Program grant.

A county-wide fund drive would benefit the **Twin Bridges Public Library**, which has suffered county budget cuts.

**Lincoln County Library** Director Greta Chapman was appointed to the Library Services Advisory Council and to the Montana Library Association Board as Western Director at large for 1991-93.

**Bozeman Public Library** is now open on Mondays, thanks to \$32,000 from the city budget. Director Steve Cottrell noted cardholders have increased 52% in the past five years.

A book display calling attention to domestic violence was featured during October at the **Chouteau County Free Library** in Fort Benton.

**Hearst Free Library** in Anaconda has received a special three-part video collection on aging.

The First Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale, held September 26-29, netted \$10,000 for **Parmly Billings Library**.

A new interlocal agreement under discussion in Joliet would establish a joint school-public library to be known as the **Joliet School and Public Library**.

The recently remodeled **Hobson Library** was dedicated to the memory of a long-time resident on November 10.

Use of the **Kohrs Memorial Library** in Deer Lodge was up 27% during the first nine months of this year compared to last year.

Public libraries in Choteau, Colstrip, Chester, Plains, Forsyth, Roundup and Augusta have their LaserCats up and running. **Gardiner Public Schools** and **Carter County High School** in Ekalaka also have LaserCats in place.

**Liberty County Library** in Chester hosts a book discussion group beginning December 4.

Bar codes have been placed in the collection at the **Columbia Falls Branch Library**.

A unique prehistoric stone tool collection was on display in late October at **Plains Public Library**.

Coal tax money from the South Central Library Federation will provide new window coverings and shelves for the **Lewistown City Library**.

A special cookbook featuring Ruby Valley recipes is planned as a fundraiser for the **Sheridan Public Library**.

The **Missoula Public Library's** bookmobile is up for sale.

A book discussion group has been meeting this fall at the **Harlem Public Library**.

The **Eureka Branch Library** has added to its open hours in order to better serve the community.

A new brick exterior is being put on the **Red Lodge Carnegie Library**.

As of October 20, the **Great Falls Public Library** is now open seven days a week.

The **Ronan City Library** held a special book sale October 10-12, with proceeds going for new books.

An elevator or lift for handicapped access to the basement is on the wish list at the **John Gregory Library** in Whitehall.

## Hearing Scheduled On State Aid Draft Rule

A public hearing has been scheduled on the draft administrative rule for per-capita and per-square-mile state aid funds appropriated for public libraries.

The hearing is scheduled for 2 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 20, in the State Library conference room, 1515 E. 6th Ave., Helena.

Anyone wishing to see a copy of the text should contact Mary Jane West at the State Library, 444-3384.

There is also a proposed change to the administrative rule for interlibrary loan reimbursement. The change would delete the amount of \$5.50 per ILL transaction and provide for the per-transaction amount to be based on prior year activity.

Written comments can be sent to Richard Miller, State Librarian, until 5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 5.

## Calendar of Events

### November

- 11-17 Children's Book Week  
28 Thanksgiving Day Holiday

### December

- 10 Federation Coordinators,  
Helena  
11 State Library Commis-  
sion, Helena  
25 Christmas Day Holiday

### January

- 1 New Year's Day Holiday  
19-25 Third Annual Montana  
Book Week (and National  
Book Week)  
20 Martin Luther King Day  
Holiday  
24-30 ALA Midwinter Meeting,  
San Antonio

## Around the State

**Public Library Changes:**  
Arriving--Barbara Weiss, director,  
Fallon County Library, Baker.

## UM Library Selected As American Memory Site

The Library of Congress has named the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana in Missoula one of 37 American Memory project sites across the country.

American Memory project sites will evaluate computerized versions of LC collections, including Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention documents, Civil War photographs, political cartoons about Congress, sound recordings of American leaders, African-American pamphlets and early motion pictures of President William McKinley.

The project uses new technologies, such as optical disks, to disseminate the materials.

## Montana State Library Commission

**Mary Doggett,**  
Chair  
White Sulphur Springs

**Lloyd Wallin,**  
Vice-Chair  
Deer Lodge

**Peggy Guthrie**  
Choteau

**Vada Taylor**  
Glendive

**Michael Schulz**  
Dillon

**Nancy Keenan**  
Helena

**Anne Hauptman**  
Billings

Commissioners' addresses are in the  
*Montana Library Directory*

Richard T. Miller, Jr., *State Librarian*

Cathy Siegnor, *Newsletter Editor*  
406-444-5353

**Montana State Library**  
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